A number of public schools, districts, and ESDs have purchased unmanned “drones” also called small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS). In 2017 there were some changes in registration requirements. Schools are now exempt from registering with the Oregon Department of Aviation (ODA). See [OAR 738-080-0045](https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/viewSingleRule.action?ruleVrsnRsn=189369) for details. Since schools are exempt from registering they are also exempt from annual reporting to ODA.

Federal rules no longer require registration for non-commercial use. Non-commercial operators are still expected to adhere to safety precautions regarding certain restricted spaces. Go to the FAA [Unmanned Aircraft Systems website](https://www.faa.gov/uas/) for information about legal and safe use of a sUAS[.](https://www.faa.gov/uas/) The differences between commercial and non-commercial use can be a very fine and poorly defined line in educational settings. Commercial use requires registration of each drone through FAA and a [Remote Pilot Certification](https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/part_107/#rpc) sometimes called a Part 107 License renewed every two years.

We recommend the following best practices based on information from insurers, FAA, and ODA.

1. Adopt an organization policy about sUAS use and safety such as the [sample policy](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/learning-options/CTE/resources/Documents/2016-uas-policy.pdf) drafted by the Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA).
2. Register or renew registration for each sUAS with FAA.
3. Obtain a Remote Pilot Certification for any staff using an sUAS in their educational program.
4. Maintain a log of all sUAS activity to document legal use.

***Support for Educational Institutions in Oregon***

The Oregon Department of Education currently maintains a webpage on [Unmanned Aerial Systems in Education](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/learning-options/CTE/resources/Pages/Unmanned-Aerial-Systems-%28UAS%29.aspx). On the page, you will find links to relevant Federal and State agencies and other resources. If you have any questions about that information, contact Tom Thompson (tom.thompson@ode.state.or.us).

Many educational institutions in Oregon are insured through [PACE](http://pace.osba.org/). As a service to members, they provide training and other information to help educators meet State and Federal requirements. You can find more about scheduled [drone safety trainings](http://pace.osba.org/NewsPACE/Announcements/2017-12-12_Drone_Training.aspx) on their website. Check the website regularly for additional training opportunities and information on drone safety in schools.

***Questions***

The Oregon Department of Education provides this information as a service to educators. This information was current as of March 2, 2018. It is the responsibility of the sUAS owner to contact the appropriate State and Federal agencies for the most current requirements. The following web resources may be helpful in determining current rules.

[FAA Unmanned Aircraft Systems](https://www.faa.gov/uas/)

[Oregon Department of Aviation](https://www.oregon.gov/aviation/Pages/index.aspx)